

Greenways and Trails Tidbits

December 2006 Edition

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)- November, 2006

Governor Bredesen announced the purchase of more than 12,500 acres on the Cumberland Plateau from Bowater Incorporated. The properties are located in Cumberland, Hamilton, Rhea, Van Buren and White counties. These purchases add significant land resources to the Cumberland Trail State Park, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Bledsoe State Forest and the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness Wildlife Management Area.

Go to: www.tdec.net/news/release/2006/Nov/bowater.shtml for more details.

Governor Bredesen and the members of the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund Board have announced that eight projects totaling more than 15,000 acres are eligible for the first grants to be awarded by the Trust Fund since it was established in June 2005. Grants of \$10,350,000 have been awarded towards the \$21 million purchase price of these properties.

Go to: www.tdec.net/news/release/2006/Nov/trustfund.shtml for more details.

Two Tennessee state parks, a state parks friends group, and the chairman of the Commissioner's Council on Greenways and Trails have all been honored with Four Star Awards from the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA). The Four Star Awards are the highest awards the Association gives.

Chairman John Wilbanks received the Four Star Volunteer Service Award for his tireless work to strengthen the greenways and trails movement in Tennessee. John has been Chair of the Commissioner's Council since 2000 and was involved with the planning process for the Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan and the 2003-08 Tennessee State Recreation Plan.

Go to: www.tdec.net/news/release/2006/Dec/trpaawards.shtml for more details.

18th National Trails Symposium <http://www.americantrails.org/>

Over 600 people attended the National Trails Symposium in Quad Cities, IA/IL and had a great time meeting new people and renewing old friendships. Exhibits included viewing the new innovations in trail construction equipment, and numerous displays of exciting trail projects from across the United States.

Go to: <http://www.americantrails.org/awards/NTS06awards/NTS06awards.html> to see the 2006 National Trails Awardees. There are 13 categories of awards so check out the winners!

The Trust for Public Lands (TPL) www.tpl.org

The TPL has announced the 6 winners of the 2006 Conservation Awards. Go to: http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=20496&folder_id=2867 to read about the winners from across the U.S. You also need to check out the White Paper on Health Benefits of Parks at http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=21053&folder_id=175

Health benefits of Greenway Trails are coming to the forefront as research is showing that walking and bicycling on trails can put people on the path to a healthy lifestyle and can help in the prevention of obesity, diseases such as diabetes and increase levels of cardiovascular health.

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International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) www.imba.com

The IMBA Tennessee affiliate group, SORBA, dedicated 5 miles of newly completed mountain bike trails on the Raccoon Mountain project, part of the Chattanooga 2010 project to add 100 miles of new mountain bike trails by 2010. Other exciting opportunities in the Chattanooga area include Enterprise South. Go to <http://www.sorbachattanooga.org/index.php?source=advocacy> to find out more about SORBA.

Go to; <http://www.sorbachattanooga.org/trails/trails.php?state=8&trail=367> to check out their trail directory, an interactive trail guide for mountain bike trails throughout the State of Tennessee.

Go to: <http://www.imba.com/resources/grants/index.html> to check out different grant programs and funding sources for trails.

Photos Needed for Mountain Bike Management Book

IMBA seeks photos for their upcoming book focused on strategies and techniques for managing mountain biking. Here's your chance to share photos of trail work, trail restoration, trail structures, before and after photos, photo based success stories, trail signage, kiosks, club events, and more. Contact project director Pete Webber: pete@imba.com .

The USDA Forest Service Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC)

<http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/techdev/mtdc.htm>

The USDA Forest Service Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) is working with the Carhart Center to determine what types of Traditional Skills we have and which types we need to focus on for this project. MTDC will focus on Federal and State agencies and the Carhart will focus on nongovernmental groups. Traditional skills are not limited or focused strictly on Wilderness but are quite applicable to all types of land / trail applications. Survey is attached.

Any questions please call Bob Beckley, MTDC, at 406-329-3996.

Federal Highway Administration <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails>

Go to this website to find out more information about the Recreational Trail Program.

Another website to go to: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/equip/> to see the latest in trail construction equipment.

American Trails <http://americantrails.org>

Need training for trail layout, construction or on the Universal Trail Assessment Program (UTAP). Check out the National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP) at <http://americantrails.org/nttp/default> . The NTTP provides a comprehensive calendar showing available training opportunities. If you don't see what you need, contact NTTP and see if one can be set up.

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American Hiking Society http://www.americanhiking.org/news/trail_fund.html

The American Hiking Society's website provides a list of potential funding sources for trails and greenways. Go to the website above to check out government and private sources of funding.

The American Hiking Society National Trails Fund is the only privately funded, national grant program dedicated solely to protecting hiking trails. Awards range from \$500 to \$10,000 per project. Now in its sixth year, the Fund has awarded more than \$240,000 to 56 grassroots organizations all over the U.S. working to establish, protect and maintain foot trails in America.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Ivan Levin, Trails Program Manager, at 301-565-6704 x208 or Ilevin@AmericanHiking.org.

American Trails <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/index.html>

Do you need information about accessible trails and whether your trail meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) specifications? This is the website that has the answers to your questions.

Go to : <http://www.access-board.gov/po1.cfm> to print out copies of the technical guidelines for ADA compliance for different facilities.

Tennessee Department of Transportation www.tdot.state.tn.us

The Safe Routes to Schools Program grant application period is now open. The program is designed to promote walking and bicycling to school targeting grades K-8. Grants are 100% Federal Funds and the maximum grant is \$250,000 per school. Local government, local government commissions (school boards) and state agencies are eligible to apply for these grants.

Go to: <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/bikeped/saferoutes.htm> for more information about the program and a copy of the grant application.

UPCOMING DATES TO BE AWARE OF:

January, 2007 **The public input process will begin for the new Greenways and Trail Plan. Look for your opportunity to participate at the TDEC website.**

March 15, 2007 **TDOT – Safe Routes to Schools grant application deadline. See article above for program information**

March 22-25, 2007 **National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council Conference Charleston, WV. Featuring Hatfield/McCoy Trails**

March 31, 2007 **Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award application deadline. Go to <http://www.tdec.net/awards> for more information.**

April 17-18, 2007 **TN Geographic Information Council (TNGIC) Conference Chattanooga, TN www.tngic.org**

June 2, 2007 **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY Start planning your Event NOW. Go to <http://www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/> to register your event.**

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Information provided in this newsletter is taken from other sources and it is recommended that you go to those sources directly for complete information about an activity or event.



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